

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (Currently Amended) A system for backing up data, comprising:

a first computing device and a second computing device;

a first storage medium and a second storage medium;

wherein the first computing device is configured to:

initiate a backup operation of a set of data;

send a logical representation of a frozen image of the set of data to the second
computing device, wherein the logical representation includes a first mapping
of a portion of the frozen image to a first region of the first storage medium;
and

wherein the second computing device is configured to complete the backup operation using
the frozen image, wherein said completing includes:

receiving the logical representation;

prior to backing up data of the portion of the frozen image, determining whether the
first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid using a validity
indicator; and

in response to determining that the mapping is no longer valid,

obtaining an updated mapping of the portion of the frozen image;

accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium
using the updated mapping; and

· backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to the second storage medium; and
in response to determining that the first mapping remains valid,
accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium
using the first mapping; and
backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to the second storage
medium.

42. (Canceled)

43. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1 41, wherein ~~the first computing device is further configured to associate a configuration identifier with the frozen image, and wherein said determining whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid comprises determining whether the configuration identifier remains unchanged~~ the validity indicator is a configuration identifier.

44. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1 41, wherein the updated mapping maps the portion of the frozen image to a second region of the first storage medium.

45. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1 41, wherein the logical representation includes a chain of two or more store extents including a logical storage extent and a physical storage extent.

46. (Currently Amended) The system as recited in claim 1 ~~41~~, wherein the first storage medium and ~~the~~ second storage ~~media~~ medium are linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), and wherein the second computing device is configured to use input/output operations provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to access the first and second storage media.

47. (Currently amended) The system as recited in ~~claim 1~~ claim 41, wherein the first storage medium and ~~the~~ second storage ~~media~~ medium are linked to the second computing device via a SAN, and wherein the second computing device is configured to use error handling facilities provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to detect and handle any errors produced during the accessing of the first storage medium and the backing up to the second storage medium.

48. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium comprising program instructions to implement a backup service, wherein the instructions are computer executable to:

- initiate a backup operation of a set of data from a first computing device;
- send a logical representation of a frozen image of the set of data from the first computing device to a second computing device, wherein the logical representation includes a first mapping of a portion of the frozen image to a first region of a first storage medium; and
- complete the backup operation from the second computing device using the frozen image, wherein said completing includes:
 - receiving the logical representation;

prior to backing up data of the portion of the frozen image, determining whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid using a validity indicator; and
in response to determining that the mapping is no longer valid, obtaining an updated mapping of the portion of the frozen image; accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium using the updated mapping; and backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to a second storage medium; and
in response to determining that the first mapping remains valid,
accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium using the first mapping; and
backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to the second storage medium.

49. (Canceled)

50. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the ~~instructions are further computer executable to associate a configuration identifier with the frozen image, and wherein said determining whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid comprises determining whether the configuration identifier remains unchanged~~ the validity indicator is a configuration identifier.

51. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the updated mapping maps the portion of the frozen image to a second region of the first storage medium.

52. (Previously Presented) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the logical representation includes a chain of two or more store extents including a logical storage extent and a physical storage extent.

53. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the first storage medium and the second storage media medium are linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), and wherein the instructions are further computer executable to use input/output operations provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to access the first and second storage media.

54. (Currently amended) The computer readable medium as recited in claim 48, wherein the first storage medium and the second storage media medium are linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), and wherein the instructions are further computer executable to use error handling facilities provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to detect and handle any errors produced during the accessing of the first storage medium and the backing up to the second storage medium.

55. (Currently Amended) A method for backing up data comprising:

initiating a backup operation of a set of data from a first computing device;

sending a logical representation of a frozen image of the set of data from the first computing device to a second computing device, wherein the logical representation includes a first mapping of a portion of the frozen image to a first region of a first storage medium; and completing the backup operation from the second computing device using the frozen image, wherein said completing includes:

- receiving the logical representation;
- prior to backing up data of the portion of the frozen image, determining whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid using a validity indicator; and
- in response to determining that the mapping is no longer valid, obtaining an updated mapping of the portion of the frozen image; accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium using the updated mapping; and backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to a second storage medium; and
- in response to determining that the first mapping remains valid, accessing data of the portion of the frozen image from the first storage medium using the first mapping; and backing up the data of the portion of the frozen image to the second storage medium.

56. (Canceled)

57. (Currently Amended) The method as recited in claim 55 wherein the validity indicator is a configuration identifier, ~~further comprising:~~

~~associating a configuration identifier with the frozen image;~~

~~wherein said determining whether the first mapping of the portion of the frozen image remains valid comprises determining whether the configuration identifier remains unchanged.~~

58. (Previously Presented) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein the updated mapping maps the portion of the frozen image to a second region of the first storage medium.

59. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein the first storage medium and the second storage media medium are linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), further comprising:

using input/output operations provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to access the first and second storage media.

60. (Currently amended) The method as recited in claim 55, wherein the first storage medium and the second storage media medium are linked to the second computing device via a storage area network (SAN), further comprising:

using error handling facilities provided by an operating system in use at the second computing device to detect and handle any errors produced during the accessing of the first storage medium and the backing up to the second storage medium.